

# TARGET LOCATION, DESIGNATION AND HAND-OFF SYSTEM

## DESCRIPTION

The Target Location, Designation and Hand-Off System (TLDHS) is a man-portable, automated equipment suite that provides Fire Support Observer/Controllers with the ability to accurately locate targets, designate them with a laser, and then digitally transmit (hand-off) target data to fire support platforms and agencies.



## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

TLDHS is the first system to digitally enable close air support missions,

increasing the accuracy and timeliness of fire support and improving the effects of fires for surface and air-delivered munitions. By providing more accurate observer and target location data, TLDHS also reduces the risk of fratricide. Its modular system design and reduction in equipment size and weight compared to existing systems increases operator mobility. Finally, TLDHS reduces Marine fire support logistics requirements, because batteries will need less ammunition to obtain the required effects on targets.

## PROGRAM STATUS

The TLDHS program will be fielded using a block approach. Block I provides a target location and digital hand-off capability with MAGTF close air support. Block II will provide laser designation capability and digital hand-off capability for artillery missions. Block III will provide interoperability with naval fire-control systems and digital hand-off with US Navy and US Air Force tactical aircraft.

### PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

Quantity (Block I Systems):

FY 04

130

FY 05

0

### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Laser target designator: Northrop Grumman, Apopka, FL

THS software: Vectronics

Ruggedized hand-held computer: General Dynamics